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GENERAL

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1. Views on inclusion of Italy in Atlantic Pact--US Embassy
London has been told by an official of the British Foreign Office that the British will not object if the US wants Italy included in the Atlantic Pact but that both Bevin and Schuman, at their recent meeting, doubted the desirability of admitting Italy. According to the official, [redacted]

[redacted] the French lost enthusiasm for Italian participation when it became evident that a case could not be made for the inclusion of North Africa. US Ambassador Kirk reports that Belgian Premier Spaak also doubts the wisdom of including Italy in the Atlantic Pact, particularly because Italy's admission to the Brussels Pact would logically follow.

(CIA Comment: The Brussels Pact powers oppose the inclusion of Italy in the Atlantic Pact largely because they fear that they would then receive a smaller share of available US military aid.)

2. Danish desire to join Atlantic Pact--Danish Foreign Minister Rasmussen has informed US Ambassador Marvel in Copenhagen that a final decision in the defense discussions between the Scandinavian countries will be made on 28 January. Rasmussen expressed his belief that Denmark would then undoubtedly seek to join the proposed Atlantic Pact.
3. Closer US-UK understanding on Palestine envisaged--US Charge Holmes in London expresses the belief that President Truman and the Acting Secretary of State, by their recent talks with the British Ambassador on the Palestine issue, have made a "genuine contribution" to US-UK understanding.

NOTE: The next regular issue of the CIA Daily Summary will be distributed the morning of 22 January.

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and have made US thinking clearer to the British Cabinet than ever before. Holmes feels that as a result of the authoritative and unequivocal statement of US policy by the President and the Acting Secretary, sympathetically transmitted by the British Ambassador, the British now know "where they stand" and realize that the US has a "reasoned point of view" on the Middle East. Holmes adds that these statements have also ended Foreign Secretary Bevin's hopes of obtaining US-British cooperation on British terms. Holmes hazards the guess that the UK will do as little as possible about Palestine in the immediate future and will progressively but quietly un-bend toward the Provisional Government of Israel.

FAR EAST

4. CHINA: Government withdrawal to Canton--The Chinese Foreign Office has notified US Ambassador Stuart that the National Government will begin moving to Canton on 21 January. The Foreign Office has officially requested Stuart to follow the Government to that city.

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(CIA Comment: Although the National Government will try to remain on the Chinese mainland as long as possible, it will continue to develop Taiwan both as a military base and as a final refuge.)

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